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Band of brothers bound by blood

By Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marines came out in a show of support and to donate blood for one of their own Wednesday.

The blood drive, in memory of Pfc. George J. Miranda of Headquarters and Support Company, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38, was held at the Marine Aircraft Group 16 flight line aid station.

This was the second of two blood drives held in Miranda's memory. The first was held Aug. 1 at the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing headquarters building.

The blood drives are to help replace the 100 units of blood provided to Miranda during treatment at Sharps Memorial Hospital, according to Capt. Gregory J. Mueller, executive officer of Headquarters and Support Company, MTACS-38.

The two blood drives were coordinated by 3d MAW Medical and the Naval Medical Center San Diego, according to Navy Capt. Mark Edwards, 3d MAW surgeon.

Miranda was injured while unloading equipment from the back of a five-ton truck and was treated at Sharps Memorial Hospital, according to Edwards. Though Miranda succumbed to his injuries July 6, there is always a need for blood.

Donations given in memory of Miranda will benefit Naval Medical Center San Diego and Sharps Memorial Hospital, said Edwards.

The goal of the two blood drives was to raise at least 50 units of blood each day. This will benefit the medical facilities and is a very ambitious goal, according to Robert M. Wales, laboratory technician, Naval Medical Center San Diego.

A normal goal for a blood drive is about 30 units of blood,

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Gunnery Sgt. Dean B. McDonald, 3d MAW maintenance management chief, tries to relax as John P. Stephan, Naval Medical Center San Diego lab tech, prepares to draw blood during a blood drive in memory of Pfc. George J. Miranda held Wednesday at the MAG-16 flight line aid station. Photo by Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

MCCS takes command of Miramar Exchange

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Corps Community Services took control of the Miramar Exchange complex from the Navy Exchange here Sunday, marking the beginning of a new era on Station – the era of the Marine Corps Exchange.

Along with this change comes the implementation of a new merchandising system. Known as the Essentus System, it marks a large change in how business is conducted not only here, but at every MCX.

According to Gary Walls, exchange director of retail and services, although the exchange is now an MCX, it will still be known as the Miramar Exchange because the customers are not just Marines.

"Our goal is to be a military family store," he said. "We're still calling ourselves the Miramar Exchange ... because we don't want to

alienate any of our customers."

Walls said 52 percent of the exchange's customers are retirees from the surrounding

communities. Although the exchange is no longer a Navy Exchange, he said the store's hours and the majority of the store's poli-

cies will remain the same. Walls was quick to point out that monetary savings on merchandise will remain about the same. He said prices on some products may go up or down slightly. However, he pointed out the store's policy to match any local competitor's advertised price for any identical item sold at the MCX.

The exchange also has the Price Match Guarantee. This guarantee ensures that the customer has the lowest price, with certain restrictions, for two weeks on that same product. The biggest change to the store isn't with the merchandise or the prices, but with the Essentus System.

Saturday, Miramar Exchange staff began an inventory of approximately \$14 million worth of merchandise in the store, and when the doors opened Sunday for business, the Essentus System was in effect.

Walls said his staff has been training with this new system for several weeks now and it was officially turned on at the start of business Sunday. Although there were a few glitches and at one point, long lines at the



MCCS took command of the Miramar Exchange Aug. 5. Although it's now a Marine Corps Exchange, Gary Walls, Exchange director of retail services, said he wants the stores to be a military family store for all branches of service. Most of the store's policies, prices and hours will remain the same. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

See **Exchange**, page 11

Zautcke takes charge of MWSS-373

Compiled by Public Affairs

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Lieutenant Col. Donald W. Zautcke assumes command of Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 here today from Lt. Col. Charles M. Hamilton in a ceremony at Mills Park at 10 a.m.

Hamilton will be reassigned as the Executive Officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

Zautcke was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in December 1981. After The Basic School and Combat Engineer Officers Course, he joined 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Camp Pendleton, in October 1982.

While at 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, he served as a platoon commander and company executive officer for Company B and as the S-3 training officer.

In January 1985, he was transferred to the Marine Detachment on the USS Ranger (CV-61), where he served as the detachment executive officer and the detachment guard officer.

During February 1987, Zautcke was as-

signed to the Army Engineer Officer's Advanced Course at Fort Belvoir, Va. His follow-on assignment was to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. There he served as the S-3 training officer and commanding officer, Company B.

Zautcke was transferred in October 1989 to Headquarters Marine Corps, in Washington. There he served as a company grade ground officer monitor and as the assistant ground lieutenant colonel monitor.

After HQMC, he was assigned to 1st Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Camp Pendleton. He served as a firepower control team leader, supporting arms liaison team leader and brigade platoon commander.

During this tour, Zautcke deployed to Somalia during Operation Restore Hope as a firepower control team leader in support of 10th Mountain Division.

Transferred during August of 1994 to MWSS-372, Zautcke served as the squadron operations officer.

After a tour in Okinawa, Japan, as the assistant facilities maintenance officer,

Zautcke attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Quantico, Va. Following graduation, Zautcke was assigned as the executive officer MCLB Barstow.

During August 2000, he transferred to 3d MAW for duty as the Wing engineer officer. "MWSS-373 has established a good reputation for itself within 3d Marine Aircraft Wing," said Zautcke.

"That speaks well for the unit, and we will continue to uphold that reputation."

Zautcke is married to the former Sandra Favela of La Mirada, and has two daughters: Ashley, 14, and Angela, 13.



Lt. Col. Donald W. Zautcke



Lt. Col. Charles M. Hamilton

Liston takes over reserve aircraft group



Col. William R. Liston



Col. Gregory G. Rath

By Cpl. David M. Winter

MARFORRES

Colonel William R. Liston took command of Marine Aircraft Group 46 from Col. Gregory G. Rath during a ceremony held August 5.

Prior to assuming control of MAG-46, Liston served as aviation training branch head for Training Command at Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington.

Liston joined the Marine Corps in 1977 following graduation from City University at Brooklyn College, New York, where he received his bachelor's degree in economics. He was assigned to flight training in Pensacola, Fla., where he was designated a Naval Aviator in December 1979.

Upon completion of aviator training he was ordered to MAG-39, where he served as squadron historical officer, pilot training officer, assistant operations and squadron logistics officer.

In August 1991, Liston transferred to Quantico, Va., to attend Command and Staff College. Graduating from Command and Staff College in June 1992, he supported the Reserve Command and Staff class until being reassigned to the 1st Marine Division.

While serving with the 1st Marine Division, Liston was the division inspector, where he developed the division inspection program. During this time, he deployed with the division during Operation Provide Hope in Somalia.

In September 1993, he was reassigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion where he served as executive officer.

Liston then transferred to the MAG-39 staff until receiving orders to MAG-46, Detachment A.

Liston has served as commanding officer, MAG-46, Det. "A," from June 1995 until now. During his tour, he led the detachment through three major counter-drug operations in the Caribbean Islands of Trinidad, Tobago, Nassau, Bahamas, and Puerto Rico.

Liston received his master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

Following graduation, he was reassigned to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Mons, Belgium, and served as a strategic planner with the Combined Joint Planning Staff.

Liston's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service medal with bronze star.

Liston is married to the former Kaija Larson of Oceanside. They have two children Eileen Maryanna, 16, and Patrick, 13.

'Tex' Alles takes control of Marine Aircraft Group 11

Compiled by Public Affairs

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Colonel Randolph D. Alles assumes command of Marine Aircraft Group 11 from Col. Terry G. Robling in a ceremony at Hangar 1 this afternoon at 2 p.m.

Robling will transfer to become the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing chief of staff.

Alles hails from San Antonio, and graduated from Texas A&M University. He was commissioned during August of 1976 and



Col. Randolph D. Alles



Col. Terry G. Robling

was designated a Naval Aviator at Naval Air Station Kingsville, Tex., in September of 1978.

Alles completed F-4 transition training at VMFAT-101 and reported to VMFA-232 at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii in August 1979. There he served as the NATOPS officer, maintenance material control officer, flight line officer, avionics officer, and assistant aircraft maintenance officer. While attached to the "Red Devils" he made two Western Pacific deployments.

During the fall of 1982, Alles transitioned to the F/A-18 and reported to VMFA-323 at MCAS El Toro. He served as the assistant aircraft maintenance officer, quality assurance officer, and logistics officer.

While with the "Death Rattlers" he attended the Navy Fighter Weapons School and Light Attack Weapons School, Pacific. During this assignment he was embarked with VMFA-323 on USS Coral Sea and participated in Operation El Dorado Canyon.

Ad Space

Payday loans cost more in the long run: learn to prepare for unexpected expenses

By Capt. Jerry Stevenson

Joint Law Center, MCAS Miramar

Paycheck advances and payday lending establishments have exploded in the last few years. These businesses all offer short-term loans for a fee.

These loans are marketed to those of us who need a little extra cash to get by until the next payday, possibly because of a small financial setback or an unexpected emergency.

The typical payday loan starts with a customer writing a personal check to the lender, for the amount of the loan plus a fee. The check is dated up to 14 days later or the date of the next paycheck. The lender then agrees to hold the check until the next payday. When the payday arrives, the customer can redeem the check by paying the loan and the fee, in cash or allow the lender to deposit the check. Typically the borrower will take another cash advance to pay the original loan.

It is not unusual for borrowers to become trapped in a downward spiral of debt as a result of borrowing as little as \$100. There is generally a \$15 fee for \$100. If this \$15 fee were computed as an Annual Percentage Rate, like normal loans are, it would be 391 percent APR. Compare this to the typi-



State "bad-check laws" prohibit the writing of post-dated checks and checks which do not have sufficient funds in the account to cover them at the time of issuance. Photo by Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig

cal state small loan interest cap of 36-percent APR, the capped rate for credit cards of 24-percent APR, or overdraft protection on a checking account at 18-24-percent APR. Charging 391 percent would normally be considered "loan sharking" – charging more than the legal amount of interest for a loan set by state law – but these businesses get away with it by calling the \$15 a fee instead of an interest charge, thus dodging state laws meant to protect consumers.

Many customers are forced to renew cash advances every week or two to stay ahead of their paychecks. This is usually because paying off a loan of \$100 plus the \$15 fee within a few days often makes it difficult to get to the next payday without having to borrow

again. Loans which are renewed over and over because the borrower cannot afford to pay off the principal while keeping up with the fees every 7-15 days leads to steep accumulated finance charges.

Examples include one person who could not pay the loan by the due date and extended his loan period 24 times in 15 months. He started with a loan of \$400 and after paying \$1,364, was still left owing \$248 to the paycheck advance lender. Another customer initially borrowed \$150 and after extending and paying on the loan for 6 months

had paid more than \$1,000 in fees alone and not a dime toward the original \$150. She eventually was forced into bankruptcy.

After customers get into these predicaments, lenders have been known to resort to abuses such as threatening to throw the borrower in jail for not making loan payments on time. State "bad-check laws" prohibit the writing of post-dated checks and checks which do not have sufficient funds in the account to cover them at the time of issuance. Even though the paycheck advance lenders know they are receiving– and actually encouraging– checks that are not backed by funds, they still can seek enforcement of

See **Check**, page 10

NMCRS gives emergency financial help to servicemembers

After bringing the issue to the command's attention, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society should be a Marine's first line of defense when he or she is experiencing financial difficulty. The following information, taken from the NMCRS Web site, www.nmcrs.org, outlines the services provided by the society:

The mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to: members of the United States Naval Services, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.

The Society provides financial assistance to eligible recipients in the form of interest-free loans to meet emergency needs, needs-based scholarships and interest-free loans for educational purposes.

In addition, the Society offers the following services: budget-counseling services, food locker, infant layettes ("junior seabags") and budget for baby seminars, thrift shops, and visiting nurse services.

For more information call NMCRS at 577-1807.

Sargento Foods recalls two types of cheese exposed to bacteria

Compiled by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

In an announcement from the Food and Drug Administration July 27, Sargento Foods Inc., of Plymouth, Wis., is voluntarily recalling two types of their cheeses because they may have potentially been exposed to listeria monocytogenes.

The organism has been known to cause serious or fatal infections in children, elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

According to the FDA, the cheeses are Sargento Fancy Shredded Mozzarella with the code dates 19OCT01 and 20OCT01, and Sargento 6 Cheese Italian Blend Shredded Cheese with the code date 20OCT01.

The FDA advises that no other Sargento products are affected by the recall, and that no illnesses have been reported. Medical officials here said no illnesses have been reported from the possibly contaminated cheeses.

"(If people suspect they have been exposed) they should come in for precaution-

ary reasons," said Navy Lt. j.g. Brent Miller, Branch Medical Clinic public affairs officer. "It's better to err on the side of safety."

Miller also said that restaurants aboard the air station have been advised not to use the cheeses.

Although the cheeses were distributed nationally in retail stores, Raul Valecruz, commissary grocery manager, said the Miramar commissary did not carry or sell them.

According to the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition's Web site, the listeria monocytogenes organism resists the effects of freezing, drying and heat.

The organism can manifest into septicemia, meningitis, encephalitis or cause cervical infections in pregnant women.

The infections can cause a spontaneous abortion in the second or third trimester or even stillbirth.

The Web site said the symptoms are usually influenza-like with a persistent fever, and possibly nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

For more information, call 1-800-243-3737 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Central Standard Time.

Ad Space



SAVE ENERGY
we may need it later

Get out of the house, start living SoCal

By Sgt. Robert Piper

1st Marine Division

The weather is warm, summer is mild and everyone is generally happy. Yes, it's the best time of year to enjoy all of what Southern California has to offer.

Within two hours driving distance, one can do everything from lying on the beach or visiting a theme park to hiking and camping in any one of the many surrounding mountain ranges. There is something for people from all walks of life, if they only seek it out.

Unfortunately, I see far too many of my fellow Marines wasting what I consider the opportunity of a lifetime.

You've seen them — they complain about how much better things were at home, and then spend every spare second watching movies, playing video games or surfing the Net.

Instead of pining for my 32-minute sub-

way ride to Yankee Stadium for a Saturday afternoon game, I have tried to make the best of where I am now. I live 30 minutes from San Diego, the biggest little town I've ever seen, and one hour from Los Angeles, the new culture capital of the world.

The best part is, I pay nothing for my dwelling, and the crime rate is far lower than anywhere else I've resided. What a shame it would be for anyone to live here for two years and never visit Hollywood or Beverly Hills at least once — if for no other reason than to just say you've done it.

Never seen a professional baseball game? You can get Padres tickets for \$5 and the stadium is less than 45 minutes away.

If you love roller coasters, Magic Mountain is the place, and it's less than two hours from here.

For those who love the outdoors, there is the widest variety of options, like rollerblading, mountain biking, camping, hiking, running, swimming, surfing, skiing and

snowboarding, just to name a few.

Regardless of what you enjoy doing, it's available here, you just have to get out and find it. Branch out from what's completely familiar and try something new.

Honestly, who joins the Corps to stay home and never experience something new?

For the thousands of Marines who enlisted directly from high school, this is the time in life when you could learn the most.

True knowledge is based on life experience, and you gain nothing sitting in a room wishing you were elsewhere.

Besides, it's been scientifically proven that sunshine increases energy levels and causes the body to release more endorphins, so get outside.

I know that when the weather's nice and I spend time outdoors, I'm more relaxed and in an overall better mood. Regardless of your reason, get out and enjoy where you are. Your next duty station may not offer so many opportunities. See you on the highways.

Veterans offer more than war stories

By 1st Lt. Alison L. Ake

1st Force Services Support Group

Just like every year, around the end of May, Americans celebrated Memorial Day. Since I was a little girl, it's been an important day in my family. With a grandfather that flew in the Army Air Corps and an Air Force lieutenant colonel for a father, I grew up hearing about my duty to pause on Memorial Day and appreciate the sacrifices that countless men and women have made in our country's history. To remember those who have labored and fought to keep our country's ideals from being stamped out.

With all that family background, it wasn't until more recently that I've grown to feel a deeper respect for veterans. Meeting people in the flesh can have a profound impact.

I had the pleasure of working in community relations last December when Camp Pendleton marked 50 years since the 1st Marine Division withdrew from the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea during the Korean War.

During the planning for the commemoration and on the day of the event, I met and talked with hundreds of Korean veterans and their families. For the first time, it dawned on me how many of the Marines in Korea had come back from places like Iwo Jima and Okinawa in 1945 and were shipped out just five years later to fight another prolonged international conflict.

Other Marines sent to Korea had no combat experience and had seen very little training. In order to form an entire division before the Inchon landing, some Marines were shipped out from Camp Pendleton without even finishing recruit training. The units basically had a few days with these new Marines to teach marksmanship and some tactics here at Pendleton, and then everything else had to be taught on the long boat ride to Inchon.

It made me reflect on just how far removed my experience in the Marine Corps has been from these men, and how grateful I am for that. I met another hero on base recently.

David Creson, Jr., was a Marine staff sergeant wounded in the Vietnam War and who is now on full disability. He did two tours

with 7th Marines from 1966 to 1968, and then was called back to assist in the evacuation of Americans and civilians from Saigon in 1975.

Some of Creson's injuries are physical results of his combat wounds — his eyes don't focus as well after being hit with shrapnel and little tremors seem to ravage his hands. Although he is not immobile, Creson does have a little trouble walking — a product of years of wear and tear.

But another part of his disability is that he carries the memories of his combat experience with him. He has post-traumatic stress disorder, and has been treated in Veterans Administration hospitals for several years.

From time to time, he will wake from vivid dreams about combat completely soaked with sweat, and he's had flashbacks while awake. He will apologize when he finds himself using colorful language when talking about Vietnam, and I reason that when he remembers those times, he unconsciously picks up the jargon and the language of war that one hears in a combat zone.

Like many other veterans from any war, he doesn't really like to talk about the memories. But his pride in being a United States Marine, and his desire to share a positive message for other veterans hasn't diminished at all.

I talked to him while he stayed on base a few days. He lives in Palm Desert, but comes to visit Camp Pendleton periodically so he can be near Marines. He repeatedly talked about how good the VA has been to him and how thankful he is for the benefits that come with his disability status.

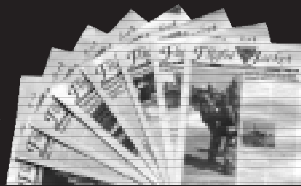
He asked me to tell other veterans of Vietnam with PTSD to be proud of their service and to press on. He wanted to tell them, "There's light at the end of the tunnel."

That's what was amazing to me about these veterans. Even though they've put their lives in danger, most stay very humble and want to be identified with a group, not singled out. It's that attitude of "team above self" and devotion to country and Corps that epitomizes a

See **Veterans**, page 10

Ad Space

Miss an issue?



*Check the Flight Jacket
archives online*

www.miramar.usmc.mil/flight.htm

Mir *Remarks*

Aug. 14 is National Code talkers Day, do you know what the significance is to the Marine Corps?



"The Japanese were intercepting our transmissions and breaking every code we had. The Navajo language was used because the Japanese had no knowledge of it."

Cpl. Wesley C. Burns

MWCS-38

multiplex communication operator



"The main reason we won the Pacific Campaign is that the Japanese couldn't understand the Navajo language."

Pfc. Richard R. Esquibel

MALS-11

CMD clerk



"It was an ingenious idea to use the Navajo language. It was one of the most basic languages we had and it crossed over for the military."

Lance Cpl. Jonathan R. Taite

VMFAT-101

expeditor

3d MAW Key Volunteers take care of ‘extended family’

By Sgt. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Major Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, wants the 3d MAW to be the wing of choice for Marines, Sailors and their families.

Helping to make that dream a reality is the Family Readiness Program.

“It is a shining star,” said Family Readiness Program Coordinator Maria Ready. According to Ready, the 3d MAW has become a model for many of the family assistance programs throughout the Marine Corps.

“I recently attended the Marine Corps Family Team Building Conference in Quantico, Va., and we were asked to speak because we run so many programs that the other installations would like to emulate,” added Ready, a native of Orange Park, Fla.

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11’s Key Volunteer network is an excellent example of one such program.

The Key Volunteer program is designed to aid family members while their spouse is deployed and can’t be there to help when emergencies arise.

“Our primary job is to keep families informed of any pertinent information,” said Fran Cooper, MALS-11 Key Volunteer advisor. “Sometimes we become the shoulder to cry on when young spouses are having a rough time because of a deployment, and that is the best part of this job.”

Monthly newsletters, phone calls and meetings are some of the tools that have helped MALS-11 establish a good relationship between the volunteers and family members.

“I think what sets us apart from the rest

of the squadrons is our operational tempo,” said Gunnery Sgt. Steven Shortill, assistant family readiness officer. “At any given time we have about 80 to 100 Marines deployed.”

Due to MALS-11’s high-deployment rate, the squadron is afforded the opportunity to have a continuously active Key Volunteer program. According to Cooper it’s the sheer experience and dedication to the families that help them establish an excellent line of communication between the squadron and families.

While members of MALS-11’s Key Volunteer program have made a name for themselves, there are many other squadrons in 3d MAW which work just as hard.

“I don’t want to take away from any of the other squadrons here, because there are many great squadrons,” said Ready. “I think MALS-11’s high-deployment rate has allowed them to develop many of the changes that have taken place here.”

The “Devil Fish” have 18 fully-trained and qualified Key Volunteers. Volunteers receive training on ways to find the easiest solution to a big problem. If difficulties arise for family members, there is one centralized phone number for them to call. From that one number, they should be able to get all the information and help they will need.

“Sometimes the problems can be an easy fix and other times they are more complex, but regardless the Key Volunteers are trained to handle the problems with the fastest and easiest solution,” said Shortill. “For example, a Marine’s wife had broken her leg and we went over there and helped her cook dinner.”

For anyone interested in contacting any squadron’s Key Volunteers, they can call the Key Volunteer network’s main line at 577-1322.



Currently there are 18 members of the MALS-11 Key Volunteer Network. Family readiness programs train Marine spouses who are willing to dedicate their time to assist the families of deployed Marines. Photo courtesy of MALS-11 Key Volunteers.

Ad Space



Taking a little trip

Marines of MWSS-373 proudly carry their guidons during a recent 8-mile conditioning hike to the Miramar Pond. Photo by Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

Marines assist Boy Scouts Jamboree

By Sgt. James Covington

Marine Corps Recruiting Command

FT. A.P. HILL, Va. — Nearly 50 Marines from across the Corps teamed up to support the Boy Scouts of America at the National Boy Scout Jamboree here July 24-Aug. 1.

The Boy Scout National Jamboree takes place here once every four years and draws a crowd of roughly 35,000 Boy Scouts from troops across the country.

The Marine volunteers performed a multitude of duties including instructing scouts who are trying to earn an Auto Mechanics Merit Badge, passing out materials like patches and scouting cards and leading the scouts in their morning fitness exercises.

Though the Marine Corps has been involved in the national jamboree in the past, this year's participation marked the largest and most organized Marine Corps involvement in the event.

About 15 of the Marine volunteers and two members of Team Rensi Motorsports ran the auto mechanics merit badge training station. At this station, the Marines monitored seven testable events ranging from basic auto care to detailed classes on the operations of combustible engines. At the final event of the station, the Scouts were able to don the uniform and perform the functions of an actual NASCAR pit crew. The Marines monitoring the auto mechanics merit badge station saw about 200 Boy Scouts a day come through their station.

Marines were also the first people many Scouts saw in the morning. The Marines led the Boy Scouts in morning calisthenics and formation runs every day beginning at 6 a.m. Marines led the morning exercises in every regional camp area. The scouts participated in the morning physical exercises on a volunteer basis, but Marine instructors in some camps saw as many as 100 Scouts participate.

The Marine Corps also partnered with the Boy Scouts to produce a 90-minute presentation called "Scoutopia." The presentation used music, skits and pyrotechnics to convey to Scouts the importance of staying true to the scouting pledge and the positive impact the traits of scouting have on society. The production, which was performed entirely by Boy



Several Boy Scouts wait in line to begin the Marine Corps Auto Mechanics Merit Badge Booth. The highlight for the Scouts was being able to suit up as members of Team Marines racing crew and take part in a simulated NASCAR pitstop. Team Rensi motorsports, the Marine Corps' NASCAR Busch Grand National partner, donated the use of two members of their pit crew, the vehicle hauler, two race cars, and the team's tools and equipment. Photo by Staff Sgt. Demetrio J. Espinosa.

Scouts, used the Marines who fought on Iwo Jima as positive examples of Marine Corps leadership for Scouts to follow.

Major Gen. Jerry D. Humble, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, kicked off the first official "Scoutopia" performance by addressing the audience.

"We are not sponsoring 'Scoutopia' to recruit anyone," Humble said to the crowd of Boy Scouts. "We are sponsoring this event because of the values the Boy Scouts encourage. They are the same values we encourage in our Marines. If you were to look at the generals and colonels of the Marine Corps, you would be amazed at the number of us who were Boy Scouts before we were Marines."

Many of the Marine volunteers were not strangers to working with the Boy Scouts. Some were Scouts themselves and several are active leaders in their local Boy Scout troops.

"There is a strong parallel between the values we teach and learn in the Boy Scouts and those we instill in the Marine

Corps," said Col. Gary L. Lewis, a Scout troop leader and commander, Marine Air Control Group 48, at Fort Sheridan, Ill. "We want the boys to grow up and become morally-straight, physically-strong citizens with a sense of duty, honor and patriotism."

Many of the Scouts who had the

opportunity to interact with the Marines have done so enthusiastically taking the opportunity to ask questions about Marine Corps life.

"The Marines have really left an

See **Scouts**, page 10



Sergeant David Nelson, 4th Marine Corps District supply clerk, talks to the Scouts about the automobile scheduled maintenance. The station was one of seven stations the scouts had to complete to be awarded the Auto Mechanics Merit Badge. Nelson, a Kanab, Utah native, was one of the 47 Marine Corps volunteers who helped with the quadrennial Boys Scouts Jamboree July 24-Aug. 1. Photo Staff Sgt. Demetrio J. Espinosa

Ad Space

Code Talkers met World Wars with war of words

By Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Tuesday is a celebration of the vital role a handful of Native Americans played in the success of the United States military during World War II — Code Talker Day.

At the start of World War II, the Marine Corps did not have a secure code in which to send important military communications. To date, the Japanese had been able to break every code the Marines had used, according to the Web site *A Positive Light*.

The idea of using Native American languages as a code to send military communications was first tried by the Army during World War I using the Choctaw language. Many in the military felt that the Germans had learned of this and had studied the Native American languages.

In February 1942, Philip Johnston convinced Lt. Col. James E. Jones, a Marine signal officer, to allow a demonstration of the Navajo language as a way to send coded messages. Johnston had served in France during World War I and knew of the importance of an unbreakable code.

The Navajos were so isolated, and their language so difficult that it was estimated that probably fewer than 30 non-Navajos could understand the language in the 1940s, none of which were Germans.

Navajo volunteers were put into two separate rooms at Camp Elliot, East Miramar, and given messages to code and send in their native language. In 20



The first Navajo Marine Corps Code Talker recruits swear in at Fort Wingate, N.M., before reporting to MCRD San Diego. Photo courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration.

seconds they did what took coding machines 30 minutes to do.

Major Gen. Clayton B. Vogel, commanding general, Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, was convinced of the value of the Navajo language as a code and recommended to the Commandant of the Marine Corps to enlist 200 Navajos.

Initially the Marine Corps employed only 29 Navajo Code Talkers, and then more than 400 by the end of the war.

Although the Navajo language was great in terms of security, it was lacking in up-to-date military jargon. To compensate, the Code Talkers had to create a system of native words to represent military terms for which there was no direct translation. For example, the word “iron-fish” was substituted for submarine. Iron-fish is one of more than 400 military terms for which the Code Talkers created native word combinations.

The value of the Navajo Code Talkers and their coded messages gained much recognition in the military with the battle of Iwo Jima. On Iwo Jima, the Code Talkers coded and decoded more than 800 messages in the first 48 hours without any errors. They handled all communications between ship to shore and all battlefield commands during the battle.

Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima, according to Maj. Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer during the battle of Iwo Jima, according to the Navy and Marine Corps World War II Commemorative Committee Web site.

The existence of the Code Talkers was kept secret until 1968 when the Pentagon declassified the tactic.

In May 1982, the United States Senate passed a motion declaring Aug. 14 National Code Talkers Day. Arizona Senator Dennis DeConcini, sponsor of the bill, declared, that since the Code Talkers work required absolute secrecy, they never enjoyed the national acclaim they so much deserved, and that he did not want this illustrious yet unassuming group of Navajo Marines to fade into history without notice.

The remaining of the original 29 Marine Navajo Code Talkers, along with surviving family members of the others, were honored in a ceremony at the White House July 26 and were presented the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

See **Code Talkers**, page 11

Ad Space

Swimming adds diversity to workout programs

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Run, lift, run, lift, run and lift – the fitness cycle for many Marines never alters. The Marine Corps’ Physical Fitness Test dictates the ebb and flow of a unit’s and an individual’s workout efforts. However, diversity is the key to a well-rounded physical training schedule.

Swimming is one of the best aerobic activities known, which makes it an excellent activity for individuals who want to stay fit, according to the United States Masters Swimming Web site, www.usms.org.

“Swimming is a total body, non-impact exercise. When a Marine swims on a regular basis, he or she will find that they are burning calories, reducing fat, boosting their metabolism and strengthening muscles,” said Staff Sgt. Brian J. Whalen, water safety instructor, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

Swimming is a fitness activity that offers variety. There’s the traditional lap swimming, as well as lesser known methods like shoreline swimming and swimming with a competition club. Whatever the method, swimming yields large returns for individuals seeking to reach personal-fitness goals.

“Through my experience with swimming, I have learned different ways to exercise in the water. These different exercises can be applied for whatever goal an individual swimmer is trying to attain, whether it is trying to gain strength and endurance, to use non-impact exercise to prevent injury, or to burn calories,” said Whalen.

Lap swimming, offered at the 50-meter pool here, provides all of these benefits. The 50-meter pool is open for lap swimming Saturday through Thursday 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

“I get a lot out of swimming laps,” said Maj. Michael P. Bruen, Marine Aircraft Group 16, operations officer. “Swimming is great for cardiovascular, and it helps me with muscle tone, strength and flexibility.”

Bruen swims laps at the 50-meter pool at least three times a week.

Along with muscle tone, strength and flexibility, lap swimming increases endurance that helps on the three-mile run requirement for the PFT.

Believe it or not, a day at the beach can help



Marines use their lunch break and after-work hours to swim laps at the 50-meter pool here. Swimming has many benefits, it is one of the best aerobic activities, and adds diversity to a workout. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

increase PFT scores. Shoreline swimming adds the element of waves to fitness swimming, increasing the difficulty of swimming.

A shoreline swimmer will experience more resistance from the water and the resistance will help tone muscles faster. Shoreline swimming should only be attempted in an area with a certified Red Cross lifeguard, according to the USMS Web site.

Swim clubs are ideal for individuals who need an extra push to motivate them to get fit in the water. Clubs like the United States Masters Swimming club let individuals network with other people who are using swimming to meet fitness goals.

“As with many fitness activities, it can be all too easy

to stop a fitness swimming program, and difficult to restart. When you have friends to swim with, this is much less likely to happen, as you will naturally encourage each other,” according to the USMS Web site.

Marine Corps Community Services here offers several classes to teach people the fitness benefits of swimming. Along with Red Cross swimming lessons to teach children and adults the fundamentals of swimming, MCCS offers the Aqua-Jogging Circuit, Aqua-Robics and the Masters Swim Program, according to the MCCS Aquatics Program 2001.

If a Marine is a weak swimmer, he or she can still benefit from a swimming workout. The first step is to get in the water and start learning technique.

“If someone is a weak swimmer, the best way to

improve is through practice. Swimming is all technique, and the more you practice the better your technique; the better your technique, the easier it is,” said Whalen.

Not merely a fitness activity, swimming could be the key difference between life and death in a combat environment. Marines are the first to hit the beaches and there’s water to cross before they get there.

“In accordance with our doctrine, we are an amphibious force in readiness. We must always be prepared to perform amphibious operations, whether for training purposes or in an actual combat situation,” said Whalen.

Units interested in scheduling unit physical training or remedial swimming

Aquatic Fitness Classes

Aqua-Jogging Circuit

Race across the pool using aqua jog belts (provided through the pool) for bouyancy. The class involves the coordination of laps and exercises and does not requiring any swimming skills.

Aqua-Robics

Cool off and get fit at the same time! Use the dynamics of the water to tone and define your shape while taking advantage of the non-impact aerobic environment. No swimming skills are required.

Masters Swim Program

Structured and organized group swim instruction for the intermediate swimmer to the competitive athlete. Proper stroke techniques is taught and monitored to increase water efficiency. Workouts are designed to meet your level of intensity. For more information on any of the programs, call 577-4140 or 4129.

Unit Aqua PT

A great workout for your whole section or unit. Call the water safety insructors at 577-4140.

Marines come up to par for All-Marine Golf Team

By Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marines from places as far away as Okinawa, Japan, have descended upon the golf course here for the All-Marine Golf Team trials.

There are 29 competitors vying for a spot in the following divisions: open, senior and female. There are four slots in the open division, two in the senior and two in the female.

The tryouts consist of a 72-hole tournament, played 18 holes each day during the four-day competition.

The tournament’s opening ceremony was Tuesday at 8 a.m. and the first golfers teed up at 8:30 a.m.

Division winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony today at 2 p.m. at the course.



Corporal Kathi Moss, VMFAT-101 electrician, moments before her drive off the third tee box finds the fairway. Photo by Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

Each champion will go on to represent the Marine Corps in the Armed Forces Tournament scheduled for Tuesday through Friday here, according to Bob L. Stopp, Marine Corps Community Services athletic director.

“It is really exciting to be able to host both the All-Marine Team trials and the Armed Forces Championship here at Miramar,” said Stopp.

The grounds-keeper has been preparing the course for the Armed Forces Golf Tournament to make it challenging and a good round of golf for the players of both tournaments, according to Stopp.

Water and wind will challenge competitors. It is rated the best conditioned course in the military and one of the top 10 military courses by Travel and Leisure Golf Magazine’s July-August 2001 issue.

The Armed Forces Golf Tournament starts Tuesday, with an opening ceremony at 8:30 a.m. at the golf course.

A kick-off banquet will be held at 5 p.m., Monday, at the Officers’ Club. Tom Addis, former president of the Professional Golfer’s Association of America, will be guest speaker.

Marine ethics, values reflected in Station weight lifter

By Sgt. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Miramar’s very own Master Sgt. Michael W. Kidd, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting crash chief, has quietly represented the Station in non-sanctioned local and national power lifting championships.

In October, Kidd will compete in an internationally-sanctioned competition against competitors from numerous countries, including: Ireland, England, Mexico, India, Brazil and Canada.

Kidd started lifting weights when he was 17 years old and hasn’t stopped going to the gym since.

“When I was growing up, I knew I was pretty strong for my size,” said the native of Muskegon Heights, Mich.

From a strong young man in high school to a fierce competitor in power lifting championships, Kidd has been able to tap into every one of his 182 pounds to gain the strength he needs to compete.

Power lifting competitions consist of three separate events – the bench press, squat and dead lift.

Each competitor has three opportunities for one maximum repetition. In the end, the weights from all three events are totaled to determine the winner.

The superstitious Kidd won’t admit to how much he has lifted in any single event, but his last winning total was 1,213 pounds.

In staying with the highest standards held by the Marine Corps, until now Kidd has avoided joining any power lifting organizations because of the drug influence in the sport.

Recently though, Kidd caught word about the World Natural Powerlifting Federation which drug tests each member before competitions.

“This organization has the same zero-tolerance mentality as the Marine Corps,” said Kidd. “I feel it keeps the competition clean and fair.”

Kidd said he plans on staying with the WNPF for a while because of their outlook on illegal drugs.

As well as ensuring what he affiliates himself with has the same outlook on illegal substances as the Marine Corps, Kidd also enjoys living a healthy lifestyle.

“Some of us tease him about his eating habits,” said Gunnery Sgt. Danny Rowe, ARFF training and readiness chief. “He’s always walking around with a can of tuna or has some salmon that he cooked the night before.”

Kidd says his eating habits are normal. He stays away from fast foods such as hamburgers and fried foods in general. “I enjoy eating the way I do, and I don’t see it as any sort of sacrifice,” said Kidd.

The master sergeant’s dedication doesn’t go unnoticed by his troops. “He’s dedicated to maximizing his potential, and everything is natural,” said Cpl. Lillian M. Ruiz, ARFF crewmember.

While Kidd is proud to admit that he has never been seriously ill or had any sort of injury he also admits that health benefits aren’t the only reason he sticks with it.

He goes for the love of doing it, “It’s like I heard somebody say before, ‘It doesn’t add years to your life – it adds life to your years,’” laughed Kidd.



Master Sgt. Michael W. Kidd, ARFF crash chief, squats 315 pounds at Miramar’s main gym. Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho

Ad Space

Enlisted Club improvements

Due to the installation of a new dance floor and carpeting in the Enlisted Club main ballroom, dance programs will be discontinued until Wednesday, when the E-Club will hold its Grand Re-Opening celebration from 4 p.m. to closing. The night will feature a live reggae band, a DJ, the Foster's Girls, prizes and giveaways, not to mention the debut of the new dance floor.

For more information call 577-4820.

DEERS/I.D. Card and G-1 office closure

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and I.D. Card Center will close at 1 p.m. today. The sections will resume normal hours Monday. If you need immediate assistance please call Roxanne at (619) 524-8740.

For more information call 577-1142 or 1421.

Moving Wall comes to town

The Veterans Memorial Center will showcase the Vietnam Moving Wall, today through Sunday. The 240-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington will be available for public viewing beginning today at 8 a.m.

Opening ceremonies will be tomorrow at 10 a.m., with a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m.

For more information about the event, call (619) 239-5977.

Maintain OPSEC in Outlook e-mail auto replies

Everyone has experienced getting an auto reply upon sending a Microsoft Outlook e-mail, such as:

Hello, I'm on emergency leave in Podunk, Iowa, and will be back on July 27. Your e-mail to me has been automatically forwarded to 1st Lt. Oorah. If you require immediate assistance contact him at 555-1234.

This is bad Operational Security because the individual informs a potential bad guy that not only himself but likely his entire family is away from home which increases the risk of quarters being burglarized. Here's another example:

I'm on temporary assigned duty to Washington from July 15 to July 27, staying at Leatherneck Hotel and will be checking my

e-mail via laptop daily.

This is bad OPSEC, not only because it informs anyone of the Marine's absence from the local area, but targets exactly where he is, and that he has a government laptop with him. The laptop may possibly contain sensitive data, he will very likely leave unattended in his hotel room.

If the Marine doesn't want to drag his government laptop everywhere he goes, the laptop should be secured in the hotel front desk safe, or an in-room safe, if so equipped. It also should never be left unattended in a rental car.

Laptops are very vulnerable to theft.

The point is to be as generic as possible when drafting Microsoft Outlook e-mail automatic replies. Practice good OPSEC.

Family Footlocker makes parenting easier

Learn new tips, tricks and techniques for better parenting in "Family Footlocker," a class sponsored by Miramar's Counseling Center and New Parent Support Group. Classes run from Aug. 28 to Oct. 2, and will be held Tuesday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Murphy Canyon Chapel (in the Rear Admiral White Small Chapel).

Participants are welcome to bring a brown-bag dinner. Limited childcare will be provided. Registration is required. Call 577-9812 or (619) 524-0805.

Be a good sponsor

Have you been selected to sponsor a Marine coming to Miramar? The Marine Corps Community Services' Relocation Program offers a one-hour training session every Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Joint Reception Center.

Call 577-1428 for more information.

Station Library holds children's story hour

Marine Corps Community Services offers a free story hour for children 5-years-old and up each Thursday at 2 p.m. Toddlers and preschoolers up to 4-years-old can enjoy a story hour at 10 a.m. Children will be treated to stories read aloud, puppets, songs and much more fun. No registration is required.

For more information call 577-1261.

Free movies from MCCS

Today

Atlantis: The Lost Empire (PG) 4:30 p.m.
The Animal (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
The Fast & The Furious (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Saturday

Atlantis: The Lost Empire (PG) 6:30 p.m.
Doctor Dolittle 2 (PG) 8:30 p.m.

Sunday

Doctor Dolittle 2 (PG) 1 p.m.
Swordfish (R) 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Memento (R) 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Atlantis: The Lost Empire (PG) 2 p.m.
A.I. Artificial Intelligence (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

The Station theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby Digital Surround Sound. All movies are free for DoD ID card holders and their guests. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

Blood,

continued from page 1

but the average collected is 20-25 units, according to Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael D. Potratz, laboratory technician, Naval Medical Center San Diego.

The first blood drive raised 36 units of blood, 10 units more than normally collected during blood drives, said Navy Lt. Michael J. Duszynski, 3d MAW medical planner.

Check,

continued from page 3

the state bad-check laws and send the local District Attorney's office out to collect on the check. In California, the civil penalty for writing a bad check is to pay the amount of the check plus damages, but never less than \$100 and no more than \$500. Also, California has a criminal penalty for writing bad checks of up to one year in county jail.

The only protection for consumers provided by the federal government is the Truth in Lending Act, which only requires that rates, fees or terms of a loan be disclosed to the customer. You must receive in writing the finance charge in a dollar amount and the APR. Violations of this act must be reported to the Federal Trade Commission, which works for consumers to prevent fraud, deception and unfair business practices as well as provides information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid them.

To file a complaint or get free information call 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357) or go www.ftc.gov to file a complaint online.

It is important to know and use the alternatives to paycheck advance loans to avoid getting trapped in unexpected debt.

- Compare options for the lowest cost credit available from cash advances on credit cards or small loans from banks – they beat out advances in the long run with lower APRs.

- Change your condition rather than existing paycheck to paycheck by creating a realistic budget and avoiding unnecessary purchases.

- Build some savings to avoid having to borrow small sums to meet emergencies and unexpected expenses – just \$300 in a savings account would save you some steep payday loan fees.

- Ask friends and family to help out when an emergency arises.

- Borrow only as much as you can afford to pay with your next paycheck and still have enough to make it to the following payday.

- Ask for more time to pay utility bills.
- Ask creditors for more time to pay bills, but be aware of late charges, additional finance charges and higher interest rates.

- Look into overdraft protection on your checking account.

- If you need help working out a debt repayment plan with creditors or developing a

budget, contact your local consumer credit counseling service non-profit groups that offer credit guidance and are available at little or no cost.

Scouts,

continued from page 6

impression on the Scouts," said Brad Had-dock, Chairman of the National Order of the Arrow of the BSA.

"They show the Scouts that discipline, honor and teamwork make the Marines who they are. These are the same traits we try to develop in our Scouts. I think it's very important that the Marines and the Boy Scouts both work together to develop character in the young people of the United States."

After viewing the "Scoutopia" performance, the Scouts were invited to sign the "Wall of Commitment." The top of the wall displays the name of every Marine Corps general officer who previously wore a Boy Scout uniform.

This suggested to the Scouts that they too can reach the highest level of Marine Corps leadership. By signing the wall, the Scouts agreed to try to live their lives by the principles that make good Scouts and Marines.

"The Marines represent what a lot of scouts hope to become," said Eagle Scout Carey Mignerey, an Atlanta native attending college in Virginia. "I can't think of a better example for a Scout than a good Marine."

The Marines who are former Scouts agreed the skills they learned in the Scouts have served them well in the military.

"I know the skills I learned in the Boy Scouts helped me out a great deal in my Marine Corps career," said Lance Cpl. Justin Myers, a Daphne, Ala. native and electronics repair technician for 2nd Maintenance Bn., Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Myers entered recruit training as a Private first class because he was an Eagle Scout. "For me, supporting this event has been a fun way for me to give something back to the Boy Scouts for helping me."

"I think being a Boy Scout is a great first step to becoming a Marine," said Portland, Ore., native Lance Cpl. Dean Pruitt a former Life Scout and radar technician at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. "My biggest benefit would be for these Scouts to see the kind of values they learn about in 'Scoutopia' demonstrated by the Marines here."

Veterans,

continued from page 4

veteran to me.

Let's cultivate that attitude in our own lives. Learning from our veterans can prepare us for the sacrifice that will be expected of us when the next balloon goes up.

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ The Wetland Avengers, an Aquatic Adventures Science Education Foundation project, is seeking military volunteers to help restore the wetland habitats of San Diego County.

The project will begin at 9 a.m., Sept. 8. For more information contact Melissa Studer at 274-0724.

- ◆ Volunteers are needed to assist in San Diego's "Vietnam Wall Experience" in Balboa Park, today through Sunday. Volunteers will read the names from the wall aloud and provide guest directory services. For more information contact Vietnam Veterans Association, Chapter 472 at (619) 338-8585.

- ◆ AIDS Walk San Diego needs volunteers Oct. 7, to help set up, man the booths, provide security and register other volunteers.

The AIDS Walk raises money for HIV and AIDS awareness programs, research, and screenings. For more information contact Marcella Martin at (619) 260-1068.

- ◆ Help beautify the San Diego commu-

nity by volunteering to plant trees. Most plantings take place on Saturday morning. The project will stretch between Aug. 4 and Oct. 27. For more information contact Patrick Stevenson at (619) 697-0151.

- ◆ The BEST Mentor Program is looking for mentors to help troubled children in the San Diego area. The program needs volunteers who have at least one day a week to spend 2-3 hours with a child.

The time should be spent doing positive, meaningful activities that will instill a sense of value in the child. For more information call Calvin Clayton at (619) 297-8111.

- ◆ Do you have an interest in military aviation history? The Flying Leatherneck Museum is looking for volunteer docents and gift shop attendants.

The museum has aircraft from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War. The museum is located on station and is open to the public.

Call the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation at 693-1723 for details.

Exchange,
continued from page 1

cash registers, the doors remained open for the customers and sales were nevertheless made.

“We flipped on the switch Sunday and had to deal with some problems at the point of sales,” said Walls. “We’ll be working around the clock to bridge all the problems, which is typical with any system you implement. With seven or eight locations (the problems) can be monumental.”

Walls said he believes they did the right thing by keeping the store open for the simple reason that if someone really needed something, they could purchase it. He said stores off station would have closed down for a couple of days or a couple weeks and then reopened, causing an inconvenience and a disservice to their customers.

Along with the new computer system comes a new look for two areas inside of the store – the greeting cards and Marine Corps novelties sections. New carpeting and shelving will grace the area, giving it a fresh look. Walls said Jet Mart is also going to be expanded next year. Other changes – like fashion – won’t be seen for a few months be-

cause of the time of year.

Another big change, though unseen by the consumer, is an expansion in the budget to draw from the local vendors and sell their wares here.

A percentage of the gardening, electronics and fashions sections of the budget have now been allotted to buy items here in Southern California.

“We will have our own buyers here in the store so we will have more control over what is bought,” said Walls. “We’ll also be able to react faster to our customer needs and wants.”

The Miramar Exchange is the first large exchange to use the Essentus System, and Walls said the Station is essentially a test site for other large exchanges.

“Once this system is up and running and everyone is online, we can do more information sharing with the other Marine Corps bases,” Walls said.


Walls is not only in charge of the Miramar Exchange, but Jet Mart, the barbershops and the gas stations, as well as others. With the gasoline price wars outside the Station’s gates, Walls said he will do everything he can to keep Miramar’s prices low.

“We’ve got the best gas prices in town,” he said. “We will maintain that as best we can and will continue to have the lowest prices.”

Code Talker,
continued from page 7

Currently, there is a Code Talker display in the Pentagon, complete with some code words and their English equivalent. However, according to tour guides, some of the code words displayed are slightly inaccurate to protect those that are still classified.

The movie “Windtalkers,” scheduled for release Nov. 9, commemorates the Marine Navajo Code Talkers.



Flight Jacket

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